

Plants for Your Backyard Habitat

Backyard Habitat for Wildlife



Plants provide two of the essential elements of wildlife habitat: food and shelter. Fortunately, many species of plants that are useful to wildlife are aesthetically pleasing to us as well. The delicate flowers that provide nectar to hummingbirds and butterflies brighten our yards through the spring and summer months. Brilliant fall foliage and colorful fruits and berries paint the fall landscape. And the evergreens that provide crucial protection from harsh weather add a touch of green to winter's browns.

The ideal wildlife habitat should include plants that range widely in size and density so that birds and other animals can choose the type of cover that best meets their needs for hiding, nesting and protection from extreme weather. The flowering and fruiting times of various plants should also be taken into account as you plan your planting, so that you have a variety of foods that are available to wildlife throughout the year.

The plants listed below are attractive to many species of wildlife in the Southeastern United States. They are readily available at your local nursery and, given the correct environmental conditions and care, will thrive in your backyard.



Deciduous Shrubs

Barberry *Berberis canadensis*

Beauty-berry *Callicarpa americana*

Black Huckleberry *Gaylussacia baccata*

Butterfly Bush *Buddleia davidii*

Inkberry *Ilex glabra*

Serviceberry *Amelanchier arborea*

Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*

Red Bud *Cercis canadensis*

Red Maple *Acer rubrum*

Sassafras *Sassafras albidum*

Southern Crabapple ... *Malus angustifolia*

Southern Sugar Maple . *Acer barbatum*

Sweet Gum *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Deciduous Trees

Black Cherry *Prunus serotina*

Black Gum *Nyssa sylvatica*

Flowering Dogwood ... *Cornus florida*

Hackberry *Celtis laevigata*

Hickory *Carya spp.*

Live Oak *Quercus virginiana*

Mulberry *Morus spp.*

Parsley Hawthorn *Crataegus marshallii*

Vines

Blackberry *Rubus spp.*

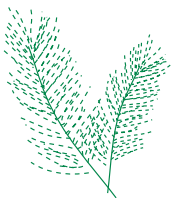
Coral Honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*

Muscadine *Vitis rotundifolia*

Trumpet Creeper *Campsis radicans*

Virginia Creeper *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Wisteria *Wisteria sinensis*



Evergreen Shrubs

- Eastern Redcedar *Juniperus virginiana*
- Nandina *Nandina domestica*
- Oregon Grape Holly . . . *Mahonia bealei*
- Privet *Ligustrum sinense*
- Firethorn *Pyracantha spp.*

Evergreen Trees

- American Holly *Ilex opaca*
- Dahoon *Ilex cassine*
- Carolina Cherry Laurel *Prunus caroliniana*
- Southern Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora*
- Wax Myrtle *Myrica cerifera*
- Yaupon *Ilex vomitoria*

For more information:

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